

# FACT SHEET | Strengthening the Mental Health System

*2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota*

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For too long, our mental health system has been inadequate to meet the needs of Minnesotans. This year, Governor Dayton worked with the Legislature to make essential investments in the state's mental health system. These new resources will support services including additional hospital beds and affordable housing for people both at-risk of mental illness and with the most intensive needs. The funding also will make critical investments in children's mental health.

## Improving Service Quality and Delivery

- **Mental Health Crisis Services** – Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature invested \$8.6 million to expand crisis services for both children and adults. The funding will support a statewide mental health hotline number, expanded mobile crisis services, and expanded crisis residential services for adults. These services will help Minnesotans with mental illness get the care they need earlier – preventing their conditions from worsening and keeping them out of the hospital.
- **Housing for Adults with Mental Illness** – Minnesotans with serious mental illness are more likely to have brighter futures when they have stable housing and support services. That is why the Governor and Legislature invested \$4.65 million in housing for individuals experiencing mental illness. The new funding is expected to help an additional 840 individuals experiencing serious mental illness.
- **Community-Based Treatment** – This year, Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$1.3 million to expand the state's Assertive Community Treatment services, which provide Minnesotans with serious mental illness intensive care at home, instead of in a hospital.
- **Increasing Capacity at State Treatment Centers** – The budget signed by the Governor includes \$23.9 million to expand mental health treatment capacity at the Anoka-Metro Treatment Center and at regional addiction recovery centers in Carlton, Fergus Falls, St. Peter, and Willmar. Expansion at these facilities will help more Minnesotans with serious mental illness and drug addiction problems access critical services. To improve patient care and employee safety, Governor Dayton and the Legislature also invested \$15.7 million in the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter.

## Supporting Child Wellbeing

- **Psychiatric Treatment Facilities** – There are currently 300 to 400 children with serious mental illness across Minnesota who are not receiving the treatment they need. To better meet the needs of Minnesota children, Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$6.62 million to offer 150 new beds and an array of services to meet the multiple and changing needs of children and youth and their families, such as individual therapy, family therapy, and medication management.
- **School-Based Care** – To help ensure that all kids get the care they need, the Governor and Legislature provided funding for a new pilot program for kids who struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues. This new school-based program is designed to assist schools and their partners to become more selective about making referrals to the juvenile justice system and develop school- and community-based alternatives for addressing student behavior.
- **Early Intervention for High-Risk Youth** – Research shows that early intervention can improve outcomes for young adults experiencing early onset psychosis. The Governor and Legislature have provided funding for grants to pilot evidenced-based early interventions programs for youth and young adults (16-26). This funding will allow Minnesota to strengthen the state's capacity to serve

youth with early signs of psychosis and help to bridge gaps between children's and adult mental health services.

## **Strengthening Minnesota's Statewide Provider Network**

- **Rate Stabilization for Mental Health Providers** – The payment structure for mental health services has become fragmented and underfunded leaving Minnesota with a fragile and unsustainable provider network. To help alleviate this issue, Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$5.55 million in a grant program to stabilize Minnesota's intensive mental health services infrastructure
- **Chemical Dependency Treatment Access** – To help stabilize Minnesota's chemical dependency treatment system and allow providers to expand access to needed care, the Governor and Legislature funded a two percent payment rate increase.